

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 00483 201609Z

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 201324Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8523

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

S E C R E T COPENHAGEN 0483

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, EEC, NATO, DA

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE IMPACT ON
EUROPE AND THE ALLIANCE

REF: COPENHAGEN 463, 438, 448, 461, STATE 32337

BEGIN SUMMARY: WE CAN EXPECT LITTLE GRATITUDE FROM DANES
IN SHORT RUN FOR MAKING IT CLEAR AT WASHINGTON CONFERENCE
THAT FRENCH WOULD-BE EMPEROR HAD NO CLOTHES ON. FIRST
DANISH OFFICIAL REACTION WILL PROBABLY BE TO PAPER OVER
INTERNAL EC DISAGREEMENT BY AVOIDING CONTROVERSY WITH
FRENCH ON SUCH IMMEDIATE ISSUES AS 24:6 NEGOTIATIONS
AND US-EC DECLARATION. IN LONGER TERM, HOWEVER, DANISH
PREFERENCE FOR BROADEST POSSIBLE US-EUROPEAN COOPERATION

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IN ENERGY, DEFENSE AND OTHER FIELDS SEEMS MORE COMPATIBLE

WITH US VIEWS THAN WITH FRENCH PRETENSIONS TO SELF-CONTAINED EUROPEAN "INDEPENDENCE". END SUMMARY.

1. FOREIGN MINISTER GULDBERG HAS ALREADY GIVEN ME HIS OWN INTENSELY PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS OF THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE (COPENHAGEN 463). FORTUNATELY, GULDBERG'S PRONOUNCED SYMPATHY FOR FRENCH POSITION DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE WIDELY SHARED, EVEN WITHIN HIS OWN MINISTRY, AND HIS VIEWS ARE LIKELY TO BE ACTIVELY OPPOSED BY PRIME MINISTER HARTLING AMONG OTHERS. MOST IMPORTANT SHORT RANGE IMPACT OF CONFERENCE HERE, THEREFORE, IS PROBABLY SPLIT IN DANISH THINKING ON WHAT TO DO ABOUT SPLIT IN EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES. AS NOTED COPENHAGEN 461, MOREOVER, DANES ARE SPECULATING ON ADDITIONAL COMPLICATION RAISED BY POSSIBLE DIVERGENCE OF VIEWS WITHIN TOP LEVELS OF FRENCH GOVERNMENT ON ISSUES DRAMATIZED BY WASHINGTON CONFERENCE.

2. STRONGLY PRO-EC LEADERS, SUCH AS GULDBERG, ARE OPENLY DISMAYED BY NINE'S DISUNITY IN WASHINGTON AND ARE SIMULTANEOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE COMMUNITIES OF UK'S CURRENT POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC TRAVAILS. THOSE DANES WHO ARE LESS COMMITTED TO NOTIONS OF EUROPEAN UNITY, AND THEY CONSTITUTE A CLEAR MAJORITY, ARE CORRESPONDINGLY LESS WORRIED OVER CLEAVAGES WITHIN NINE ALONG ALREADY WELL ESTABLISHED FAULT LINES. IF THE GRANDER SCHEMES OF EUROPEAN UNION ARE NO LONGER ATTAINABLE IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE THIS WILL NOT WORRY MANY DANES SINCE THE MAJORITY FOR ENTRY IN 1972 REFERENDUM CAME AFTER REPEATED PLEDGES THAT DENMARK WOULD ESCHEW ANY MOVES, BEYOND THE STRICT LETTER OF THE TREATY OF ROME, LEADING TOWARD POLITICAL UNIFICATION. SOPHISTICATED DANES REALIZE THAT THESE PLEDGES WERE NOT ENTIRELY TENABLE AND THERE HAS, IN FACT, BEEN MORE DANISH COOPERATION IN "OTHER" AREAS THAN THE ELECTORATE PROBABLY BARGAINED FOR AT THE REFERENDUM.

3. MOST DANES, INCLUDING MANY OFFICIALS, ARE RATHER NAIVE ABOUT INTERNATIONAL POLITICS, AND FREQUENTLY SEEK SOLUTIONS TO COMPLICATED PROBLEMS IN MOALISTIC SLOGANS AND APPEALS FOR GOOD WILL. THEY WILL BE SLOW, THEREFORE,

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TO SEE ECH'S INTERNAL CLASH TO WASHINGTON CONFERENCE AS LOGICAL DENOUEMENT OF FRENCH ATTEMPT TO LEAD EUROPE TOWARD SEPARATION FROM AND POSSIBLE CONFRONTATION WITH THE UNITED STATES. CERTAINLY, LOCAL EDITORIAL REACTION TO DATE HAS GENERALLY MISINTERPRETED THIS ISSUE, FOCUSING INSTEAD ON ALLEGED US THREATS, MIXED WITH TABLOID SPECULATION ABOUT PERSONALITY CLASHES.

4. DANES DO, HOWEVER, HAVE INSTINCTIVE UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR OWN WEAKNESS AND A HEALTHY SKEPTICISM ABOUT IMPERIAL PRETENSIONS OF SOME OF THEIR EC PARTNERS. THEY WOULD BE MORE COMFORTABLE IN KIND OF TRANSATLANTIC INTERDEPENDENCE US IS ATTEMPTING TO ORGANIZE THAN IN ANY CONCEIVABLE ALTERNATIV AND THEY WILL PROBABLY RECOGNIZE THIS REALITY IN LONGER RUN. THE MORE IT IS MADE CLEAR THAT FRENCH ISOLATION FRM THE OTHER EIGHT AND THEIR NATO ALLIES IS RESULT OF FRENCH CHOICE AND HAS NOT BEEN IMPOSED ON THEM FROM OUTSIDE, THE SOONER DANES WILL COME TO REALIZE THAT FACT.

5. THE CRISIS IN WASHINGTON MAY HAVE SHOWN -- IT IS OF COURSE TOO EARLY TO BE DEFINITIVE -- THAT IT IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE, AFTER ENLARGEMENT, FOR ONE MEMBER OF THE EC TO THWART THE WILL OF THE OTHERS ON ISSUES THEY REGARD AS CRUCIAL. ONE MEMBER COULD FFECTIVELY STOP THE OTHER FIVE IN 1965 BUT ONE MEMBER IS APPARENTLY NOT GOING TO BE ABLTO TO STOP THE OTHER EIGHT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974COPENH00483
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P740145-2259
From: COPENHAGEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740219/aaaaascr.tel
Line Count: 135
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: COPENHAGEN 463, COPENHAGEN 438, COPENHAGEN 461, COPENHAGEN 448, STATE 32337
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 APR 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <03 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE IMPACT ON EUROPE AND THE ALLIANCE
TAGS: ENRG, OCON, US, FR, DA, EEC, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005